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Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Chief, PPS

DATE: 4 April 1957

FROM : Chief, LAS

SUBJECT: Weekly Activities Report #14

A. SIGNIFICANT ITEMS

None to report.

B. OTHER ACTIVITIES

1. As directed, [REDACTED] as CIA representative, attended conference conducted by the Office of Education of representatives of federal agencies with interest in language-competent personnel. Purpose of the conference was to help the Office of Education learn of the extent and nature of language competence required by government agencies in order that they might provide guidance to academic institutions desiring to improve their language training activities.

2. [REDACTED] discussed possibilities for a language and area program with [REDACTED] referred by DTR and DDTR.

3. [REDACTED] and Benoit (USIA) called mainly to discuss language training.

4. [REDACTED] interviewed [REDACTED] of FDD, a candidate as assistant to [REDACTED]

5. At the invitation of [REDACTED] prepared comments on the draft of [REDACTED] on the Language Development Program. Essence of comments, supported by discussion, is that: (a) only better than average persons should be selected, (b) overseas language training should be planned only for persons who have the equivalent of basic training, except where there exist language schools providing controlled, professionally-directed training, and (c) overseas language training should be followed immediately by overseas duty. Essence of discussion is that, for the most part, only under these conditions can the program hope to accomplish the objectives and avoid being extravagantly wasteful.

6. As of noon, Wednesday, 239 persons have registered for Justice Douglas' lecture.

7. Several employees a day are registering themselves or their wives in the Language Instructors Roster. Languages, so far, include Dutch, French, German, Korean, Polish, Russian, Spanish and Czech.

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8. The School is beginning to develop a "hand-out" kit for Americans Abroad courses. The contents have not yet been fixed, and probably never will be. The aim is to provide material related to objectives of the program at virtually no cost, or only insignificant cost. Materials will be largely gathered from U.S. and overseas travel bureaux, Embassies, the Department of Defense, commercial concerns, etc. Types of items to be enclosed include things like:

- Esso tourist road maps
- Department of Defense, I&E Guides
- TWA tourist handbooks
- German Central Tourist Association Guides on the country, Cathedrals, etc.
- Pan American World Airways table of foreign exchange rates
- CIA Health Bulletins
- Basic bibliographies
- Glossary of most common road signs
- Department of Defense foreign language handbooks
- Selected city maps in CIA.

Considerable modification may be made as usefulness is determined and as other sources of relatively free material are located. This is a project involving resourcefulness rather than expenditures.

W 9. On 2 April, the first session of [REDACTED] Regional Survey--Russia in Asia course was given with a record enrollment of 33 students, including three from Army Map Service and one from ONI. It is understood that this is only the second time this sort of course has been given in this country.

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10. [REDACTED] addressed the Language Development Committee on the subject of his recent visit to the [REDACTED] to make a survey of language training problems. The committee discussed with [REDACTED] his recommendations for improving this program.

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11. First offering of Americans Abroad--Western Europe was completed on 29 March. LAS staff and students were fully satisfied with the techniques of starting off with regional coverage--on topics such as medical, legal, history, importance to the U.S., and peoples--followed by individual country coverage on current conditions, tailored to the needs of each member of the class. The class was enthusiastic especially about the latter phase of the course, which was handled with the help of recent returnees participating on panels and holding final interviews by country. No such area indoctrination appears in a recent schedule for the [REDACTED] orientation course, which enrollees in this Americans Abroad course will take before departure. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] conducted a language familiarization panel, while [REDACTED] also assisted in several other sessions of the course.

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13. The special-keyboard typewriter for Mr. [REDACTED] and one of the two for Mr. [REDACTED] ordered last June were delivered. Upon examination it was found that they departed from specifications in certain respects. Mr. [REDACTED] conferred with Mr. [REDACTED] Office of Logistics, and representatives of [REDACTED] to discuss the matter.

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14. Room 2-86, Quarters Eye, has been made available to Mr. [REDACTED] for his Intensive Spanish class of four students.

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15. Mrs. [REDACTED] returned from maternity leave to resume her schedule of teaching five part-time Russian language courses.

16. [REDACTED] began the IOC on 1 April. He will take only the first phase at this time.

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17. Current enrollment in internal language training programs is 343, 185 in courses and 158 in self-study. During the past week, the language laboratory was used for a total of 366 hours by 74 students.

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